

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, SP

SUBJECT:APPROACH TO SPANISH ON IATTC VIOLATIONS

1. DEPT LEARNED ON SHORT NOTICE THAT DEPT OF COMMERCE WAS PREPARING TO ANNOUNCE EMBARGO ON YELLOWFIN TUNA PRODUCTS FROM COUNTRIES VIOLATING REGULATIONS OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA ASSOCIATION (IATTC). PROBLEM OF SUCH VIOLATIONS IS OF LONG STANDING BUT CAME TO HEAD RECENTLY DUE TO VIGOROUS PROTESTS BY U.S. TUNABOAT OPERATORS.

2. SPANISH DCM CALLED IN AUGUST 29 AND WAS INFORMED OF COMMERCE INTENTION TO ENFORCE U.S. DOMESTIC LAW BY DECLARING EMBARGO WITH 30 DAYS NOTICE. DCM ALSO INFORMED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID EFFECTS OF EMBARGO IF SPAIN WOULD TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO COMPLY WITH IATTC REGULATIONS BEFORE THE END OF 30-DAY PERIOD, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF SPANISH BOATS NOW WORKING IN IATTC REGULATORY AREA. DCM WAS ADVISED THAT PANAMA HAD ALREADY AGREED TO SUCH ACTION.

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3. DEPTOFF STRESSED THAT THIS WAS NOT NEW U.S. POLICY BUT SIMPLY IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING LAW IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM. HE

INDICATED U.S. WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH SPAIN TO ATTEMPT TO AVOID PROBLEM IN FUTURE, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER APPROACHES ON IATTC MEMBERSHIP IF SPAIN STILL WISHED TO JOIN.

4. DCM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM AND, IN ADDITION TO REPORTING TO FONOFF, WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF SPANISH DELEGATIONS IN WASHINGTON FOR IMF/IBRD MEETINGS. ROBINSON

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